In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of securing a network <u>interface</u> device installed on a host comprising:

initializing the network <u>interface</u> device without transmit functions; receiving notification that the host <u>on which the network interface is installed</u> has been authenticated; and

in response to receiving notification that the host has been authenticated, enabling transmit functions of the network <u>interface</u> device.

- 2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein initializing the network <u>interface</u> device comprises initializing the network <u>interface</u> device without receive functions.
- 3. (currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising in response to receiving notification that the host has been authenticated, enabling receive functions of the network <u>interface</u> device.
- 4. (currently amended) The method of claim 3, wherein enabling receive functions of the network <u>interface</u> device comprises routing received data to a network stack.
- 5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising accessing a firewall policy server to download firewall policy information that is used by a firewall on the network <u>interface</u> device after enabling transmit functions of the network interface device.

- 6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein accessing a firewall policy server is performed before transmitting or receiving data from other clients or servers.
- 7. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein accessing a firewall policy server comprises authenticating the firewall policy server.
- 8. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein receiving notification that a host has been authenticated includes receiving notification that the host has been authenticated for a role, and wherein accessing a firewall policy server comprises downloading firewall policy information for the role.
- 9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving firewall policy information communicated to the host and using the firewall policy information at a hardware based firewall on the network <u>interface</u> device.
- 10. (currently amended) A network <u>interface</u> device for use in a host on a network, the network <u>interface</u> device comprising:
- a network port adapted to send and receive network information; and a module that disables at least one of transmit and receive functionality to the network port of the network <u>interface</u> device until the network <u>interface</u> device is notified that the host <u>in which the network</u> interface device is used has been authenticated.
- 11. (currently amended) The network <u>interface</u> device of claim 10, further comprising a firewall adapted to prevent the network <u>interface</u> device from

communicating with other devices according to firewall policy information stored at the firewall.

- 12. (currently amended) The network <u>interface</u> device of claim 11, further comprising nonvolatile memory, and wherein the firewall policy information is stored in the nonvolatile memory.
- 13. (currently amended) The network <u>interface</u> device of claim 11, wherein the network <u>interface</u> device is adapted to receive firewall policy information from a firewall policy server.
- 14. (currently amended) The network <u>interface</u> device of claim 10, wherein the network <u>interface</u> device is embodied as a network interface card.
- 15. (currently amended) The network <u>interface</u> device of claim 14, wherein the network device is embodied as a Secure CardBus network card.
- 16.-18. (cancelled)
- 19. (currently amended) A method of securing a network <u>interface</u> device installed on a host comprising:

initializing the network <u>interface</u> device without receive functions; receiving notification that the host <u>on which the network interface is installed</u> has been authenticated; and

in response to receiving notification that the host has been authenticated, enabling receive functions of the network <u>interface</u> device.

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20. (currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein enabling receive functions of the network <u>interface</u> device comprises routing received data to a network stack.